LE STRABILIANTI IMPRESE DI FANTOMIUS -LADRO GENTILUOMO-

London, 1895. Quackett Manor...

Son—

I was studying, father!

IP-3107-1

I wanted to inform you that this evening we'll be going to Count Mallardson's masked ball.

Ugh!

I don't want to come, Dad! These balls are always so boring!

BONK

Story and Art by Marco Gervasio

Studying, huh?

Donaldin Hood! So you're still reading this poppycock!

La leggenda di Paperin Hood

It is not poppycock! Donaldin Hood is...

A **thief!** That's what!

He's a **hero!** He robs the rich to give to the poor! And he doesn't go to balls or wear dumb masks!

Bah!

That's enough! As punishment, you'll be staying in your room until tomorrow!

Perfect! Then I don't have to go to the ball!

SLAM

Are you two squabbling again?

I wonder who put such ideas in our little boy's head!

All children have their heroes! Don't you remember when you were young?

FUORI

ALT

My hero was my father, not an imaginary outlaw!

John isn't you, dear! I'll go try talking with him!

I won't go to the ball, Mother!

John, do you think I enjoy these tedious functions?

You.. then why are you going to the masked ball?

We're **nobility!** We have many privileges, but that heritage also demands many duties.

As you grow up, you'll understand that sometimes you must do things you don't wish to do, perhaps while wearing a mask!

FUORI

You're wrong, Mum! When I'm an adult, I'll do what I want! And I'll **never** wear another mask again!

IL NOBILE dietro la MASCHERA

Lovely costume, Baron von Duck!
Is it not? Neither is yours abominable, Mr. Snootedy!
Have you seen Lord Quackett? No costume nor mask, and he keeps to himself!

Bah! Believe me! If it wasn't for his **family name**, I wouldn't have invited him! I wonder what he's thinking about, alone out there!

I wonder who it was that opened Mr. Snootedy's safe last night and stole his precious ruby?

It would be beautiful justice if a modern Donaldin Duck dragged these fools from their papier-mâché thrones!

Their hypocrisy always leaves me stunned! I would avoid these balls, if etiquette didn't force me to come.

Um...Excuse me...

And who's this? The old fellow seems more out of place than me!

How dare you stride into my party uninvited?

I-I didn't know there'd be a party! You asked me to come!

We'll look over this unfortunate misstep. After all, every court needs a jester to amuse the gentlemen!

OH OH OH

AH AH AH

Hrumph! I wonder where these "gentlemen" might be!

B-but I... You...

That's enough! Scram, or I call the police!

Sigh!

Please, wait!

?

I'm Quackett, **John Quackett!**

Copernicus Gearloose, inventor. Nice to meet you!

You'll have to excuse me, milord. I need to get back to my lab, and it's a long way by foot!

I'll take you in my car... as long as you don't call me "milord" again!

But you're a **noble!**

Not my fault!

A little later...

Make yourself at home!

If you say so!

So how do you keep all this disorder in order?

What disorder?

Ehm... these boots are nice!

One of my inventions! **Spring Boots** for large leaps! It helps with my bad habit of being late.

This invention is the **Mushroom Melter!** It melts locks. I always seem to misplace my keys!

And I bet this is a gizmo that turns you invisible!

No, that's a **Pasta Strainer.**

Would you like a drink?

Sure!

Who's the boy in the photo?

My son, **Ratchet!** He's an inventor too, and no longer a boy! That photo's pretty old!

He travels around the world for inspiration and research! He has a rich friend you might know, but I forgot his name.

HI FROM KRAKATOA

Here you go!

Thanks!

Blugh! That's not tea!

GLU-GLU

No, it's licorice juice! Good for the memory, Jerry!

Ha, ha! My name's John!

See? It works! I remembered the first letter!

Ha, ha, ha! Thanks, Copernicus!

But you barely had any!

No, thank you for giving me a real laugh in a world of fake smiles!

Can you tell me happened at that party?

What party?

Sigh! Von Duck's party, the one you were thrown out of.

Oh, **by a thousand Tesla coils!** What a disgrace!

He's supposed to pay me for an invention and instead he throws a party!

Please, Copernicus, start at the beginning!

Earlier this week, Von Duck called me to his mansion, in secret!

COPERNICUS GEARLOOSE, INVENTOR

He commissioned a device to open safes, asking for the greatest discretion!

Why?

He couldn't remember the code to open the safe above the fireplace in his office.

Uhm... and you made this device?

I built it and delivered it yesterday, of course! Here, this is a **prototype!**

The baron asked me to come back this evening to pay me.

I'm afraid you were too **naïve!**

EEEEEEEEEE

Police sirens!

They seem to be getting closer!

SLAM

Halt! Inspector Pinko, Duckburg Police!

?

Lord Quackett, what are you doing here?

Visiting a friend. And you, inspector?

Baron von Duck has denounced your "friend" for the theft of a **diamond** from his estate a short while ago!

I didn't steal anything! I only created a device that opens safes!

And that's how you cook your goose!

PAF

Ulp! What did you say?

And what are you **hiding** in your pocket?

What? Oh, nothing, only. .

?

. **a diamond?**

Copernicus Gearloose, you are hereby arrested for the theft of the Von Duck and Snootedy estates!

I'm **innocent,** John! I have no idea how that diamond got in my pocket!

They've framed you! But don't worry, I'll **clear your name!**

COPERNICUS GEARLOOSE INVENTOR

At least, I hope. I'm no detective like Sherduck Holmes or Hercule Birdot!

EEEE

EEEE

Yet it's clear that Copernicus was framed by the **Baron Von Duck**, who's not only an arrogant noble, but a thief!

He stole the ruby from Mr Snootedy thanks to Copernicus' gizmo, then invited Copernicus to the mansion this evening and planted the diamond in his pocket!

Finally, he accused him of the crime to give the police a culprit, knowing that they'd attribute the other robbery to him as well!

And Copernicus made the situation worse by telling Pinko about his gadget!

BLOMP

TAP

TAP

BLOMP

The only way to clear his name is to find the ruby, which Von Duck is likely keeping in the safe!

But to expose a thief masked as a gentleman, we'll need **a gentleman masked as a thief!**

London, 1895...

If you apologized, I'm sure Mum and Dad would end your punishment and let you go to the ball!

That's a good reason *not* to, Henry! But have you seen yourself? You look ridiculous in that!

You're right, li'l brother! But I love this cloak. It makes me feel like a hero!

You're wrong! A hero like Donaldin Hood doesn't wear a cloak!

Masks, cloaks, and capes are what criminals wear to hide!

They can also hold something precious, John!

SWISS

What's it about?

It's the story of a nobleman dressed in a mask and a cloak, who fights a rich tyrant in the name of the poor!

A mask doesn't always hide something, John... Sometimes, a mask **reveals!**

La Maschera di ZOLLO

Villa Rose, 1910...

La Maschera di ZOLLO

Dinner is ready, sir!

Thank you, Sefton! I'm not hungry!

Tonight, I'll break into Von Duck's mansion to open his safe!

RICHARD QUACKETT

But the aristocrat John Quackett can't do it! It's too risky! What if I'm seen?

RICHARD QUACKETT

I'll need **a mask!**

Fortunately, I kept Henry's old costume! It's faded over time, but that's better anyway!

My brother was right! Sometimes a mask reveals your true identity rather than hide it!

Tonight, the noble John Quackett vanishes...

...and **Fantomius, the gentleman thief**, appears, risen from the ashes!

Does he leave by the front door?

No! The gentleman thief makes his exit via window!

Nice and handy, Copernicus' spring-boots!

BOING BOING

Watch out, Von Duck! Fantomius is on his way!

Seems that's easier said than done!

No, banish all doubts! I'm now outside the philistine world I'm obliged to live in...

. in this new world, where I can act as I please, like in my childhood dreams!

Here I come, Von Duck!

BOING

Urgh!

SFRUSH

Hmm... I misjudged my jump! But we learn by error!

Let's try again!

BOING

I made it!

TAP

Ulp! Kinda high up!

Now all I gotta do is use the Mushroom Melter...

...And the lock liquifies like butter on the sidewalk in June!

FZZZ-ZZZ

Copernius said that the safe is in the office, above the fireplace...

Sure enough, there it is!

STAK

Opening it will be a breeze with Copernius' prototype!

Indeed...

The ruby stolen from Mr. Snootedy, as suspected!

But it's not enough to find it...

I need to ring up the police... to report my theft! Ha, ha!

I'm telling you I didn't call the police to report another robbery!

And yet the telephone call came from here! Best to check the safe!

But... that's the stolen ruby!

Gasp!

But.. I... I can explain...

Ha, ha!

Baron von Duck, you are under arrest for the theft of the Snootedy estate!

Sigh! Alright, I confess!

My envy for the count, for his owning such a precious gem, lead me to hatch a plan to steal it and put blame on the inventor!

Good work, inspector! That'll earn you a promotion guaranteed! I'll just be taking this!

?

!

SWISH

BOING

Who the hell was that?

D.P

He left ...a visiting card?

FANTÔMIUS
LADRO GENTIL

The next morning...

The true robber of the ruby, Baron von Duck, arrested! Copernicus Gearloose set free!

DUCKBURG TIMES
DUCKBURG | 5 SETTEMBRE 1940 | ONE CENT
IL Barone Von Duck arrestato
Chi è Fantomius?

Inspector Pinko confirms: a mysterious masked thief, who styles himself **Fantomius**, has stolen the gem in turn!

Why Fantomius?

Because I'll be as invisible and dreadful as a phantom!

PRIGIONE

Then... you don't plan on stopping?

You joking? I've only just begun to make that contrived and hypocritical world tremble!

I don't know how to thank you, John!

I should be thanking *you*! You don't know how much fun I had last night!

I finally found my Sherwood Forest, and my mask!

In that case, I'll be your Little John!

WROOOM

Speaking of, I've invented a material that can be used to make masks that perfectly reproduce a person's face, but I don't have the funds to make them!

Now you do!

Oh? Then let's drive to the lab!

That's just where we're going!

Rose Hill
5 Miles

But this is the road to the Villa Rose!

In fact, I'm driving to your **new lab! Ha, ha!**

Behind the mask of Lord Quackett, the clumsy good-for-nothing aristocrat, lies Fantomius, the famous gentleman thief, whose diary set off the birth of Paperinik!

FINE